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CURRENT COMMENT

BY FREDERIC HEATH

A Kansas City Congregational preacher has just been fined for talking Socialism on the street. To tell with constitutional guarantees!

August Kaden, Social-Democratic deputy for Dresden, and also a member of the Saxon Landtag for 12 years, is dead. He was a veteran in the Social-Democratic movement in Germany and an active worker since 1868.

The Socialists in Argentine Republic have by their agitations and the work of their members in parliament forced the government to build single state railways in place of allowing private capital to build competing, duplicating lines.

Wonderful are the working people of this nation for they have made the country worth \$140,000,000,000. Of course capitalism claims the credit, and manages to make good—for possession is nine points of the law.

In the Netherlands elections just held the Social-Democrats increased their vote from 85,000 four years ago to 147,000 and will have 18 members of the national congress in place of seven. There is great rejoicing among the comrades there.

A Social-Democrat may soon enter the upper house of the Holland parliament. In the recent elections in Friesland the Socialists outstripped the Liberals and have sixteen members in the assembly, according to the figures now at hand, enough to permit them to name the man the assembly will send to the senate.

A monument has been unveiled by the Social-Democrats of Germany to the memory of the late Paul Singer. Comrade Singer was a wealthy man when converted to Socialism, and not only gave lavishly of his means to further the party work but himself played a part in the party management that helped to make the party invulnerable, Kaiser proof and capitalism proof.

In Great Britain the Socialists are seeking a better name for their Sunday classes for children which have been called Socialist Sunday schools. It is felt that this latter name is tactless and that it arouses prejudices among church folks who have the best right to the name, from long usage. Also it creates false ideas of the Socialist aim, which is neither for nor against religion.

"Socialism and Unionism are the twin devils of Anarch," sagely declares Kirby, the president of the National Manufacturers' association, which has just been exposed in alleged bribery of congressmen.

HOW VICTOR BERGER VOTED

In answer to some criticism coming from one or two papers that stand for trade unionism "pure and simple," and for certain union men who are simple but not pure—we have the following to say:

Mr. Berger voted against the "rider" to the sundry civil bill (not to use any of the money of that appropriation for the purpose of enforcing the Sherman anti-trust act against trade unions and agricultural organizations) because he considers that amendment a cowardly and dishonest makeshift that means nothing.

And for the following reasons:

First. This provision would only apply to criminal proceedings. But criminal prosecution has never been brought under the provisions of the Sherman act against a trade union or a farmer organization except a few weeks ago in West Virginia as a "bluff." However, even criminal prosecution can be brought against any such organization now in spite of the provision of the sundry civil act. The money would simply be taken from some other fund. The government has all kinds of funds at its disposal. President Wilson has pointed that out himself.

Second. While the sundry civil rider apparently seems to exempt labor organizations from prosecution, that act does not prevent private persons from bringing suit against unions and union men to recover damages. Therefore, if this exemption had been in force at the time the Danbury haters were sued, it would not have given the haters any protection whatsoever. Neither would it have barred the suits that were brought by the Buck Stove company against the officials and members of the American Federation of Labor.

Third. The exemption clause—being a rider on an appropriation bill—will cease to operate as soon as this particular appropriation expires. That means the exemption he'ds good for only one year at best. If it had passed last spring, it would cease to be valid after July 1, 1913.

The Socialists are not in the business of busting trusts. And we are not asking for any special exemption from the Sherman act.

We oppose all anti-trust legislation, and as a matter of principle, therefore, Victor Berger, Socialist, while in congress, introduced a bill to repeal the Sherman act altogether and to enact honest, sensible and really progressive legislation in its place.

These are some of the reasons why Victor Berger, Socialist, while in congress, did not vote for that silly humbug of trying to exempt the trade unions from criminal prosecution under the Sherman act by passing a "rider" on an appropriation bill. It is a political swindle to catch union men who don't think, and a Socialist's vote will never go for any swindle.

and efforts to bribe labor leaders. Anarch signifies an inciter of disorder, the reign of each man for himself regardless of others. Mr. Kirby's organization's respect for law and right is certainly "anarch" and not of a kind that the Socialists would care to pattern after.

Holland is now in the midst of its parliamentary elections. Holland does not have equal manhood suffrage, but disfranchises about half a million of its men because of lack of property. There are Socialist candidates in ninety-four out of the hundred electoral districts. They demand complete adult suffrage, a free, non-church school system, pensions for old age, compulsory insurance and opposition to increasing the military

expenditure. The party cast 13,000 votes in 1897 and 84,000 in 1909.

How do you like being shunted through life, Mr. Poor Man in a rich country?

You see the trouble is this way: There is so much wealth that they are afraid the working class would get lazy if it got hold of any of it, so it is reserved for the ultra capitalist class to live and be lazy upon,

and as this latter class can never get enough to satisfy it, the workers must keep on ruining their health and the chance of real living on earth in order that the wealth may be heaped and heaped. It is all right—if you do not believe it you are certainly a rebellious citizen and an agitator.

A curiosity of the fearful Prussian voting system has just come to light. The town of Burch has two election districts, in which the populations are respectively 1,742 and 988. Each district is supposed to have an elector for every 250 of citizens, the first district thus having six (it is a non-Socialist district) and the other (which is Socialist) three. But the first district is apportioned out of a population

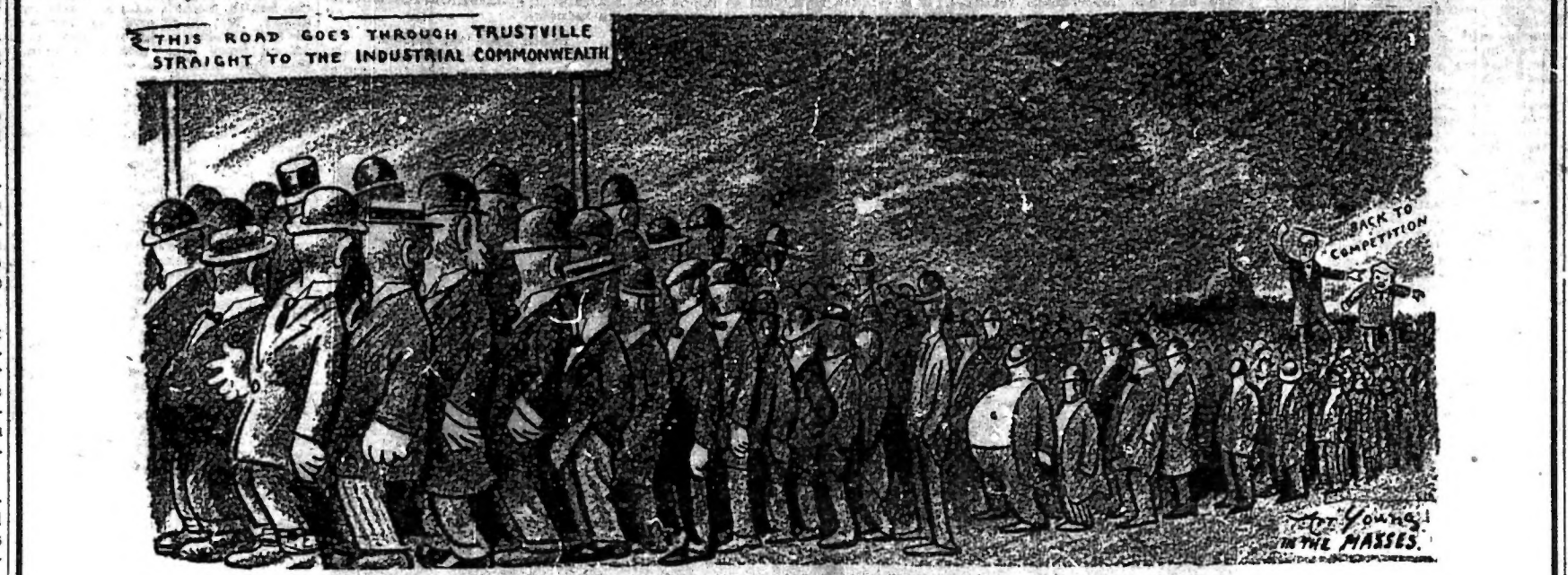
all but ten of which is made up of the inmates of a big insane asylum! The ten are doctors and officials. So that under the wisdom of the sanctified Prussian rulers a crazy house is given greater voice in the law making than a district full of men with their full faculties!

Every little while the Indians of North America adopt some white person into their tribe, usually out of gratitude for the service done their race by the person so honored. Now comes word that the Indians of New York state will adopt a Socialist. The comrade in question is Edward H. Gohl, of the local at Auburn, N. Y., who has gained their undying friendship by his researches into Indian lore and his paintings of Indian life and ways. The ceremony will take place on the Onondaga reservation, same state. On this occasion Gohl expects to wear the identical costume worn by Lewis H. Morgan, the celebrated author of "Ancient Society" when he was also adopted by the Indians.

The blatherskite Fred. Merrick, who disgusts old line Socialists at the last national convention, and who has been having a good time in West Virginia playing the Haywood game at the expense of the wretched mine workers, now spews at Debs because of the Socialist investigating committee report, and charges that Debs is a traitor to the workers "more infamous than Glascock or Hatfield." The Industrial Worker reprints the stuff with relish and remarks that the old question of who will do the dirty work under Socialism is now answered, as a Socialist investigating committee can be counted on to do it. All of which sheds some additional light upon the character of men who tried to fatten upon the Socialist movement until that movement got wise and kicked them out.

Kirby of the National Manufacturers' association says that New Zealand "is the country where Socialism got its try-out, and failed." This is a specimen of the ignorance that is found in men of his type. Socialism is a phase of society's evolution. So is capitalism, so was feudalism. There were glimmerings of capitalism during the closing years of the feudal system, when that system was fading out and the new system was coming on. Capitalism was not tried and failed in that transition period, although some little efforts that were capitalistic in their nature may not have been successes. Socialism has never been tried, for the very good reason that a phase of society can not be on trial before it makes its appearance. There are things that are Socialistic, i. e., tend in the direction of Socialism, but if New Zealand has tried any thing of this sort it seems to be unaware that failures have resulted.

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S MISSION IS TO TRY TO HALT THE MARCH OF PROGRESS



A POWERFUL CARTOON SHOWING WHERE WILSON STANDS

THIS country is divided into classes as much as any monarchical country. Therefore, the working class—the men and women who work either with their brains or their hands—must have a party of their own to take care of their interests of their own class.

The capitalist class is just as willing to deal with the Democratic party as with the Republican party. While the latter is conservative, the Democratic party is, to all intents and purposes, reactionary.

The working class has nothing to hope from

either the Republican party or the Democratic party. The Republican party is the favorite organization of the big capitalists.

For a generation it was considered the conservative business men's party of the country.

The Democratic party in its great majority stood for the economic and political interests of the slave owners before the civil war. After the war, it naturally has become the dominant party of the south, where the former slave-owner is slowly getting to be a manufacturer, a banker, or a capitalist. Up north,

the Democratic party not having any great economic interests to express—soon fell into the hands of corrupt machines, at least in the large cities.

The capitalist class, therefore, is just as willing to deal with the Democratic party as with the Republican party. While the latter is conservative, the Democratic party is, to all intents and purposes, reactionary. Being behind the times in most things, it is especially ignorant and brutal in regard to the labor question as the laws of many southern states prove.

THE CASE FOR FREE SCHOOL BOOKS PRESENTED BY MILWAUKEE SOCIALIST

Text books should be free to all children in the public schools.

There is no more reason why children in the public schools should be forced to buy their own books than they should pay tuition for their instruction and the use of the school buildings. If the one is free the other should be free.

Making children pay for their books is discriminating against the poor child, and making it harder for this child to get an education.

It is cheaper to furnish the books free.

These are some of the arguments of Mrs. Victor L. Berger, member of the Milwaukee school board, in an open letter to the board members urging free text books.

"More than one year ago a resolution, pertaining to the question of the introduction of a system by which free text books were to be furnished by the city to the children of the public schools of Milwaukee, was introduced by me. The resolution is still in the committee box.

"At the annual meeting of the committee last year, the question did not come up for discussion until 11:30 p. m., when the directors were tired. Moreover, most of them had not given the matter the attention this important subject would merit and were not prepared to vote on it. Therefore, it was agreed that the secretary gather the necessary data and information, tabulate it and have it ready for the committee at some meeting during the following year.

"This is in explanation of pursuing this somewhat unusual method of sending you a short argument in favor of my resolution, which is still resting in the committee box. I am trying to reach all the members of the board and to supply them with material so as to make it possible for them to have an opinion on the question of free text books.

Plan Proven Desirable.

"Besides that, we ourselves have only recently experienced through our high school stores that the plan of buying books through school authorities or school activities is very desirable. The board has gone on record for that little step at least.

"I further believe that a system of free text books (and I use this term because it is the term generally used) would add greatly to the efficiency of school work required. Twice a year time is lost by having to wait until all children are supplied with books. Teachers tell me that every minute counts with the present short day and the over crowded curriculum.

"It is also generally stated by educators of prominence that free text books add another school year to the school life of girls and boys in a great many families. The pressure of economic condition is the prime cause which takes children out of school at an early age, and makes necessary continuation schools.

"Our own superintendent, C. G. Pearce, told me that in Omaha as a rule 'hard times' brought a larger school attendance than 'good times.' When factories were closed these poor children would go to school. They did so because they were not under the expense of buying costly books. States having this plan in vogue report a noticeable increase in attendance every year. Massachusetts, claiming an increase of 10 per cent, while the average is even higher.

World Banish Humiliation.

"Free text books would also banish the humiliating and hateful distinction between those who can and those who can not afford to buy their own books which often arise under the custom providing free text books for pauper children only. Not many poor workingmen or poor people in general care to be considered paupers and apply for free school books under the act granting them to paupers.

"The arguments against free text books should have no weight against these facts. Even the objection that free text books would facilitate the spread of contagious diseases is refuted by the health statistics of the states and cities that have given this method a thorough trial.

"In this connection it is worthy of note that Philadelphia, one of the largest cities in the union, after having used free text books for more

than 90 years, still has an excellent reputation as a healthy city, (from the report of state superintendent of schools) in spite of the fact that it is also one of the greatest manufacturing centers in the United States.

"The old style apprehension that by furnishing books we are depriving parents of their parental rights and that we might as well buy shoes, food and clothing does not possess much force. The state, i. e., organized society—furnishes an education, but not clothing and food for the people. School books are necessary for the general education, which, in civilized nations, is now admitted to be a state function—even in countries like Italy, Spain and Portugal.

"Now this was not always the case. Not so many years ago education was a private matter. Everybody had himself to provide a school, a teacher and books for his children, and only comparatively well-to-do people could enjoy these privileges.

"But it was found that free institutions could not endure without free education—or rather at least a minimum education granted and provided for by the state. It was also found that the countries having the best public schools made the best headway in every respect. Thus all white nations—even those where influences of darkness were still very strong, were compelled to follow suit.

"Everybody agrees that this republic and its free institutions could not endure long without free public schools. These schools are necessary for our existence as an enlightened nation. Therefore we furnish the school houses and the teachers—and in Wisconsin even transportation in many cases—why not also the school books?

"There can be no question that if the state—organized society—has the right to enforce its demands for a certain minimum of education, it must also furnish the means of getting this education. And in a democracy the collectivity or the community will do such things for the people as the collectivity or the community can best. And furnishing text books for the schools is one of these functions it can do best and cheapest.

"In concluding my remarks, I might add that progressive educators everywhere endorse this system. Allow me to quote that well known and fine teacher, F. Louis Soldan, formerly superintendent of schools of St. Louis:

"A democratic system of government means the dissemination of intelligence, hence public education is essential to the existence of free institutions. Out of this fundamental principle the idea of a public school system has developed, a system which is maintained, not as it was when first established, by a tuition fee paid by the parents, but by a public tax to which every tax payer is obliged to contribute, regardless of the circum-

stances, whether he has children or not. Education is made free, not merely in the interest of the interest of the children but more especially because the existence and safety of the state depends on it.

"The free book system is the logical outcome of the evolution of the public school idea. If education is to be free the means of obtaining it must be free as well. If the child is to learn to read, he must have a book to read from and must not be debarrd from instruction by his inability to buy books. There can be public instruction made wholly free by the state without provision for free tuition and free books."

Phrase Is Misnomer.

"The term 'free text book,' by the way, is a misnomer. The books furnished by the board are not any more free than are the public schools. Text books are as much a part of the school system as is the school house and the school teacher. The building and the teachers are furnished by the city. And text books furnished by the school without cost to the children are paid for by the people just the same only they are bought collectively and by the board and bought more economically. This is in line with sane and progressive school management.

"If we were pioneers in this movement it might be claimed that we should not experiment at the cost of the school treasury. But we are not pioneers, we are lagging behind in this matter. Free text books are being furnished in 12 states and many hundred cities; in Philadelphia since 1818, or for 95 years.

"And the success of free text books is easily explained. To begin with there are the economic reasons. Milwaukee parents now must pay books. They buy them individually at great expense and often at great sacrifice. With text books furnished by the school board the parents buy them collectively. This in itself involves the saving of an enormous sum in the aggregate each year for the parochia.

"In Washington, D. C., the cost of text books was 87 cents per capita in the school year ending June 30, 1911. In St. Louis, Mo., the cost of free text books in 1904-1905 was 47 cents. Superintendent J. T. Hooper writes that

the cost of free school books in Appleton, Wis., was in the neighborhood of 13 cents and surely not over 45 cents per capita. He also says that when he moved to Janesville he had to spend a little over \$6 for books for a girl in the sixth grade, where, if Janesville had furnished books, 50 cents would have been the cost.

Why is a Mulhall? Why must he be set to watch a McDermott? Why must the National Association of Manufacturers hire rogues to watch rogues and finance political machines through other rogues in order to get the kind of legislation it wants?

The answer is not hard. It is just because the whole capitalist system is "built that way." That system is a mass of contradictions, and these contradictions are steadily killing it.

The employers can elect their representatives only by deception. They are elected by workingmen's votes. To get these votes workingmen must be fooled and made to believe that the candidates of capitalist parties will defend working-class interests.

Men like Congressman McDermott, Chicago, holding union cards, are classified as "I-bor members" by easily fooled old gentlemen like Samuel Gompers. 'I' such men are to be re-elected they must keep up the deception and pretend to favor legislation desired by labor. At the same time the beef trust, or some other trust, pays their campaign expenses and will continue to do this only so long as they deliver the goods.

Men elected by deception, retaining their position by deception, legislating by lying and dodging, campaigning by trickery and, in general, leading a double political life, are not always scrupulously faithful to anyone. This simple fact, which it would seem a child might see, explains nearly everything in capitalist politics from the foolishness of voters in choosing such men, to the wickedness of lobbying to watch them.

Congressmen, or other officials, who are elected by the votes of workers on a Democratic, Republican, Progressive, "nonpartisan" or other capitalist ticket, still need watching by their owners. They owe their election on one side to workingmen's votes, on the other to the employers' money used to fool the voters.

It should not take a course in logic to figure out that such men would not be averse to "making a little on the side" by "throwing a scare" into their owners.

In fact, they can not do the business of these owners unless they do sometimes "make a bluff" at doing something for those who elected them.

Yet, when the National Association of Manufacturers has elected men by deception, who retain their position by continuous double-dealing, it pretends great surprise when it is necessary to hire someone like Mulhall to keep them from practicing a little more deception.

The Socialist party strikes right through this whole net of falsification and deception. It insists that workingmen finance their own campaigns and elect men who owe allegiance to but one class, and owe all their allegiance to that class.

A. M. SIMONS.

zette is of the opinion that it can procure the services of a newspaper man to "fight Socialism" for \$10 per week. Thinking that such a hurry call sounded like real money, the enterprising newspaper man who received The Gazette's telegram, immediately wired back, asking the salary such a position would pay. He was surprised when he received a return telegram, announcing the salary as \$20 per week. Schenectady is still without the desired fighter and as far as Milwaukee, none as it was when first established, by a tuition fee paid by the parents, but by a public tax to which every tax payer is obliged to contribute, regardless of the circum-

LATEST MOVE IN SCHENECTADY

The Socialist movement is making such great advances in Schenectady, N. Y., that the Schenectady Gazette, faithful newspaper representative of the capitalist class, is so alarmed that it has wired Milwaukee a hurry call for a newspaper man to go to Schenectady to "fight Socialism."

Schenectady has a Socialist mayor, George R. Luna, and its city administration is thoroughly Socialistic. The city has experienced success with the Socialist administration, and the party has gained new members by the scores. Of course, this is all very

displeasing to The Gazette, which has the capitalist interests at heart. A Milwaukee pattern, has been proposed by those who are making wild efforts to check Socialism in Schenectady.

According to the telegram received by a Milwaukee newspaper man a few days ago, The Gazette desires to engage the services of a city hall reporter—one conversant with the Socialist and "non-partisan" parties. The tenor of the telegram was that The Gazette is about to launch upon a campaign in an effort to defeat the Socialists in the next election.

The unique feature is that The Ga-

zette is of the opinion that it can procure the services of a newspaper man to "fight Socialism" for \$10 per week. Thinking that such a hurry call sounded like real money, the enterprising newspaper man who received The Gazette's telegram, immediately wired back, asking the salary such a position would pay. He was surprised when he received a return telegram, announcing the salary as \$20 per week. Schenectady is still without the desired fighter and as far as Milwaukee, none as it was when first established, by a tuition fee paid by the parents, but by a public tax to which every tax payer is obliged to contribute, regardless of the circum-

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UNCLE SAM GIVES THE FACTS OF AMERICAN WOMAN AND CHILD LABOR!

The United States government has just issued one of the most important of its series of 15 volumes dealing with the condition of woman and child wage earners in this country. It is senate document No. 645 of the second session of the sixty-first congress, the fourteenth volume of the series, and relates to "Causes of Death Among Woman and Child Cotton Mill Operatives."

This remarkable report was prepared by Dr. Arthur R. Perry, formerly a physician of Boston, who gave up his private practice to undertake an exhaustive investigation for the government among the cotton mill operatives of New England. He carried on his work under the immediate direction of Commissioner of Labor Charles P. Neill, but his labors were free handed and unhampered. The result has been that the methods of gathering and tabulating mortality statistics have been practically revolutionized.

Dr. Perry went at his task in an original manner, his method being equivalent in value to a new and highly important invention. His mortality tables are probably the most complete that have ever been collected, and the deductions he draws from them are unerring in their logic and accuracy.

In the first place the three great cotton mill centers in the east were selected for the investigation. They are Fall River, Mass.; Manchester, N. H.; and Pawtucket, R. I. Then he undertook to find out the cause of the deaths of all persons in these cities from 1905, 1906 and 1907, and to divide the decedents into two groups—operatives and non-operatives.

Dr. Perry declared that the only reliable method upon which to base the prospects of the living mill operatives was to obtain accurate data relating to the life histories of deceased mill operatives. He gathered them all. The results, mostly in the form of painstaking tabulations, make up a compact volume of 430 pages.

"The age period, 15 to 44 years," Dr. Perry explains, "was selected for special intensive study, because it represents a period of full industrial activity during which the death rate would normally be low. It is customary to present vital statistics by age groups of 10 years. If this period from 15 to 44 years, inclusive, be divided into these customary groups of years, the death rates are sufficiently similar to justify considering the three together as a single age group characterized throughout by a low mortality."

"A second reason for choosing this age period for special study lies in the fact that more than one-half the entire population is found within its limits, so that it presents a wider field for study than a more limited age group could do. Moreover, for a study of causes of death among cotton operatives this group presents unique advantages, since more than four-fifths (85 per cent) of the entire operative population is included within it."

"Also within its limits are found three-fourths (76 per cent) of the entire number of tuberculosis deaths of individuals of 10 years and over, nearly three-fourths (73 per cent) of the whole operative mortality from all causes and fully nine-tenths (91 per cent) of the entire operative deaths from tuberculosis. For all these reasons this age period was considered to demand special intensive study."

"In regard to sex, the investigation was primarily into causes of death among woman and child cotton mill operatives, special attention, naturally, has been given to the study of female decedents as compared with the corresponding classes of male decedents."

"At a very early stage of the investigation it became evident that the Irish in each age, sex and occupation group, almost without exception, presented a higher death rate than any other race or people. This was so marked that the inclusion of the Irish in any tabulations of the aggregate population proved likely to cause erroneous and exceedingly misleading results. In the following tabulations, therefore, data will be given for three groups—the Irish, the non-Irish and the total population."

High Woman Death Rate.
"Cotton mill work was selected for special investigation because it employs a larger number of women and children than any other industry, because it exhibits a deplorably high female death rate, and because it, more frequently perhaps than any other large industry, subjects its workers to inhalation of irritant vegetable dust, which in the underfoot and overworked is especially condit-

ive to bronchitis, asthmatic and tuberculous infectious pulmonary diseases. And, finally, tuberculosis was selected for special intensive study because it was found to be the most prevalent ultimate or immediate cause of death within the age period 15 to 44 years, comprising one-half the total population and four-fifths of the operative population of the cities selected for study."

How Data Was Acquired.

"Moreover, to bring out the facts more clearly, a method of comparison has been adopted. The present report, therefore, presents the results of a special intensive study into the basic antituberculous causes. In the years 1905, 1906 and 1907 among (1) persons resident in Fall River, Mass., as compared with those in Fall River, Manchester and Pawtucket combined; (2) persons aged 15 to 44 years as compared with the aggregate aged 10 years and over; (3) females as compared with males; (4) the Irish race or people as compared with the aggregate non-Irish races of people; (5) cotton operatives as compared with those not employed in cotton manufacturing; and (6) persons who ultimately fell victims to tuberculosis, as compared with those whose debility or casualty culminated in non-tuberculous forms of death."

"As a result of these comparisons the following points seem to be clearly established:
"I. The effect of cotton operative work upon health, as reflected in the death rate, differs widely between the sexes. For the 10-year age period from 15 to 44, in which the great majority of the operatives are found, the death rates of males and females in the general population are almost identical, the male rate being 6.19 and the female rate 6.18. A comparison of the death rate of male and female non-operatives shows the rate of males to be 23 per cent in excess of that for females (male rate, 6.48; female rate, 5.21). When, however, the comparison is confined to the death rates of operatives the female rate shows an excess (male rate, 5.74; female rate, 7.63), despite the younger ages of the female operatives."

Female Death Rate.

"II. In the age groups within which operatives and non-operatives are fairly comparable, female operatives have a decidedly higher death rate than non-operatives. This is most marked in respect to tuberculosis, the death rate of female operatives from this cause being in general more than twice that of non-operatives, and in some of the race and age groups running up to many times as high. Thus in the age groups 15 to 24 years, 25 to 34 years, and 35 to 44 years, the death rates from tuberculosis per 1,000 were, respectively, two and one-fourth times, two and one-half times, and five times those among women of the same age groups outside the cotton industry."

"III. An examination of different factors which might affect the death rate, especially from tuberculosis, such as nativity or foreign birth, tuberculous kindred or intimates, overcrowding, sanitary condition of homes, etc., fails to show any such massing of unfortunate conditions among the female operatives as would explain their unvarying higher death rate."

Work Injurious to Women.

"Hence it seems impossible to escape the conclusion that operative work is prejudicial to the health of females, that the combination of operative work with matrimony is especially harmful, and that, while the general hazard of the female operative is greater than that of the non-operative, she is in most danger from tuberculosis. Whether the harmful effects of operative work are greater than those of other industrial employments, and whether they inhere in cotton textile work as a whole or are due to certain conditions within the mills, are questions for further investigations to answer. This has established the fact of the high mortality among female cotton operatives and of their special susceptibility to tuberculosis."

"In considering the real significance of these conclusions, weight must be given to the character of the death records on which they are based. This study has clearly established that such records, as at present made, are not safely to be used as the basis of mortality studies without investigation of their accuracy. Two conspicuous errors or defects were discovered, the first relating to the decedents' occupation and the second to the cause of death."

Decedent Records.

"1. The official records contained many and serious errors as to the occupation of the decedent. This was especially the case where females were concerned. In Fall River more than one-half of the female decedents for the period 1905 to 1907 were found to have been cotton mill operatives were not so recorded. On the other hand, one-seventh of the group recorded as operatives were found on investigation not to have been cotton mill operatives. In Manchester and Pawtucket, while one-third of those recorded as operatives could not properly be included among cotton workers, the effect of such inaccuracies upon any study of occupational mortality is obvious."
"2. In many cases the cause of death was described by a misleading or absolutely false term, and in others one of two contributory factors was arbitrarily assigned as the cause, with no mention of the other, which might have been equally or even more important."

Contributory Causes.

"This is the method of estimating the significance of contributory causes of death described by Dr. Perry:
"There are certain circumstances or experiences, common to many cases, which may be active factors in the causation of both disease and death. Such, for instance, are (1) ignorance; (2) bad air, whether germ laden,

dusty, humid or chemically impure; (3) bad food, that is, ill chosen, ill cooked or ill prepared; (4) bad or alcoholic drink; (5) bad personal, sexual or apartment hygiene; (6) long labor and short sleep; (7) occupational stress, (hurry and worry); (8) scant income, whether through thriftlessness, misfortune or loss of wages; (9) accompaniments of the conjugal condition, such as child birth and decedents; (10) overwork or non-resilient from fatigue."

Exact Data Unobtainable.

"These or some of these conditions might be encountered in the life history of any decedent, but as there are no data by age groups of the actual prevalence of such conditions it was impossible to obtain, through age group death rates, any precise idea of their effect in shortening life. Throughout this study, therefore, it has been assumed tentatively that the significance of any such condition as a causative factor of death is established by the frequency with which it was found to have occurred as an antecedent of the deaths studied."

"For example, the following study shows that in Fall River 20 per cent of the decedent female cotton operatives had had tuberculosis relatives, while only 21 per cent of the decedent male operatives had had similarly afflicted relatives. In accordance with the above principle it has therefore been tentatively assumed that tuberculous kindred have more influence as

a causative factor of deaths among female than among male operatives."

"Again, the economic importance of any factor or group of factors is measured fundamentally by its longevity effect, i. e., its effect on the duration of life. In this study it has been tentatively assumed that this effect is shown by the rare occurrence of a given factor in the life history of young decedents; or conversely by its frequent occurrence in the life history of those who attained a high average before death."

Deaths From Tuberculosis.

"For instance, it was found that in Fall River, during the three years covered by this study, four-fifths (80 per cent) of the total number of deaths from tuberculosis among the female population aged 10 years or over occurred in the period 15 to 44, while of the deaths in the same age and sex group from pneumonia and cancer only 39 per cent of the first and 24 per cent of the second occurred in the age period 15 to 44."

"In other words, tuberculosis had a far more marked anti-longevity effect in this group than either of the other diseases. But this period is that of the greatest industrial importance. It is evident, then, that so far as this section of the population is concerned, tuberculosis, which finds its greatest number of victims in the period of chief industrial activity, is economically far more important than pneumonia and cancer, which find their

victims principally among those whose industrial effectiveness is either waning or practically at an end."

A Radical Method.

"This method of reaching conclusions as to the physical condition of a specified class of individuals by a comparison of death rates has been so seldom used and differs so radically from the customary method that the main points of variance between the two modes of investigation seem to need some preliminary consideration."

"The two methods may be respectively defined as the inspection method and the death rate method. Under the first method a careful inspection is made of as many as possible of those engaged in a given industry and from the prevalence of ill health or disease among them conclusions are drawn as to the healthfulness of that pursuit. By the second method, the death rate among those engaged in a given industry is accurately determined for a period sufficiently long to exclude the effect of temporary disturbances, and from a comparison of this death rate with that prevailing in similar age and sex groups outside of the industry conclusions are drawn as to the healthful or nonhealthful character of the industry."

Death Rate vs. Rental.

"This table shows the relation between the death rate and the annual rental per capita:

NEW KIND OF PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ALABAMA



—From The American Magazine.

Down in the little town of Fairhope, in southern Alabama, there is a new kind of public school. It is known as the School of Organic Education. During this, its ninth year, it numbers 165 pupils, two-thirds of the entire school population. Upon first inspection the school is mainly remarkable for getting along without certain things which schools generally deem indispensable. During the first six years there are no promotions, no grades, no examinations, no marks either for conduct or for lessons, no home work, and no requirements of any kind.

The principal, founder and moving spirit of the school is Mrs. Marietta L. Johnson. Mrs. Johnson explains the singular program, or lack of program, by stating that she is growing boys and girls as a farmer grows corn. A farmer collects all the available lore concerning corn-growing, and supplies what he believes to be the best conditions for growth. If the corn does not grow he does not blame it, nor scold it, nor give it a bad mark, nor call it stupid, but hastens to change conditions until his corn responds.

Mrs. Johnson thus sets aside educational tradition to meet the needs of the child. For the first six years of his school life he is a member of what is known as the life class, so called because the children are asked to do nothing but live. Observation shows life to be very full. Half or more of the school time is spent out-of-doors, gardening, making wigwags, playing with bees and butterflies, and including learning much of the world about him. In the classroom there are no desks. The tables and chairs may be set aside in a moment for dancing or games. The little actual teaching that is done is clearly related to the child's own life. His radishes and measures his beans, and so begins arithmetic. When he is 8 or 9 he may ask to write. If he wants to learn he goes to the blackboard and begins. Reading is seldom begun before a child is 10 years old.

"The eyes of young children are intended to behold large objects," says Mrs. Johnson. "Early reading is hard on the nervous system."

When he does begin, his progress is rapid. From 10 to 12 he grows nat-

urally and willingly into formal study, desks and regular work. When he is 14 he is ready for high school. After four years more he is graduated. No one has ever told him that he is bright or dull; he has never heard of promotions, or of being retarded. If he has failed in a particular study he goes on with the children of his age. Sometimes he suddenly awakens and masters the study, sometimes he never does."

"In any event," queries Mrs. Johnson, "what right have I to hold him back from his fellow and demand that he repeat and repeat until he wearies of all study and is sullen and discontented? If he has gotten all he can out of a class no average or grading or keeping back will make him absorb more."

The assumption here is obvious. It is that the boy wants to learn. And in this school where he is never forced he generally does. The few laggards are shamed by the very spirit of their fellows and turn to work.

Mrs. Johnson has no office. Her relation with her pupils is friendly. If a boy answers back she is not offended, and her dignity remains unimpaired.

"Why should I be angry?" she asks. "Children argue with their parents, and I stand in their place. If a boy does not want to do a thing I believe good for him, want to find out why not and choose a course of action. Sometimes the occasion calls for discipline, more often it does not."

The school is frankly an experiment. Mrs. Johnson's perplexed, ready, own maternal difficulties, ready "Education and the Larger Life" by Charles Hanford Henderson. The theory there expounded seemed so sensible that she put it into practice with her own two children. They responded so well, and found the experiment so entertaining, that soon children from the neighborhood began knocking at Mrs. Johnson's door. After two years she had found something worth while. Aided by friends she opened school in a tiny cottage, with just six pupils. Before the year was out she had moved twice and had 40 scholars. The Fairhope Single Tax corporation was so impressed with the work she was doing

that they agreed to make the school public by paying into its treasury for every child in attendance, as they did into that of the ordinary public school. At the close of the fourth year Mrs. Johnson was asked to demonstrate her methods at the summer school of the University of Pennsylvania. She was at present supervising some special work in Philadelphia public schools.

She is thoroughly sincere. She does not believe that she has mastered the educational problem. But she does believe that when in the average city 32 per cent of the school children are classified as "backward" something is radically wrong with the public school system, and that organic education in asking the teacher to abandon tradition, look the child in the face and simply and religiously meet his requirements, is marking a milestone in educational progress.

The School of Organic Education has never been well off financially. It has suffered from lack of equipment, and from lack of teachers trained in organic methods. Despite this, the enthusiasm and energy of its founder have succeeded in making the five years of its existence yield remarkable results. A sociologist would find material for reflection when considering the future of the children attending Mrs. Johnson's school. They are affectionate, original, high-spirited, active, self-reliant and capable of self-expression. They have a keen sense of justice and a determined courage. They have no awe of precedent, an act must be judged upon its own merits. Mrs. Johnson's son, a handsome, stalwart lad of 10, is a most satisfactory product of the method. The boy is rarely intelligent, rarely well informed, brave, sweet-tempered, spontaneous in affection, without a shred of self-conceit.

Mrs. Johnson is a Socialist, and believes that with the training she has outlined children will develop the courage to meet the injustices of society and to overthrow them. There is no Socialism taught in her school, however, for she also believes that the soul should grow unfettered by any system, however enlightened.—Helen Christine Bennett, in The American Magazine.

THE RAW ATTACK ON MILWAUKEE'S TAX COMMISSIONER

After weeks of hesitation, the "nonpartisan" members of the council committee to which the charges against Tax Commissioner Arnold were referred for investigation, have voted to continue the shameful proceeding to remove from office a capable and faithful public official whose sole offense is that he is a Socialist.

The law not permitting the impeachment of officials because of their party affiliations, it became necessary in carrying out the Bading-Carney pledge to "make every Socialist walk the plank," to trump up charges against Commissioner Arnold. The tax commissioner may not be summarily removed. The only way by which his office may be given to a "nonpartisan" is to impeach him. So charges were brought that he had violated the civil service law in removing assessors and that he had coerced assessors to lower the assessment of the stocks of the First National and the Second Ward Savings banks.

The committee held hearings and marshalled all of the evidence at its command, but it is needless to say that it was unable to substantiate a single charge. On the only charge that the committee could make even a pretense of establishing—that discharges and appointments of assessors were made for political reasons—the council is without jurisdiction. It is not an impeachable offense.

There was no evidence whatever to show that the tax commissioner had coerced assessors. The reduction was voted by the assessors on their own initiative. Even the committee was moved to eliminate the charge that the First National Bank had been favored and the assessors coerced to reduce the assessment of its stocks. But it could not drop all of the charges without bringing the proceeding to a hilarious fiasco. So the farce is to be kept up. The commissioner is to be impeached and compelled to resort to the courts to retain or regain his office. In the meantime, the "nonpartisans" hope that the next municipal election will have been held, before the case can be finally disposed of by the higher courts, and such political capital made out of their unfounded charges as they may be able to make by holding the commissioner responsible for the acts of assessors, "non-

partisan" and Socialists alike, in undertaking to make what the assessors considered a fair valuation of bank stocks.

If Tax Commissioner Arnold had used his authority to coerce assessors in assessing bank stocks we may be sure that he would not have coerced them to reduce assessments in behalf of financial interests to whom he is under no obligations. But he entered office with the purpose to try to get as far as the power of his office would permit an equitable assessment. It was not his purpose or intent, as it is not the purpose or intent of the Social-Democratic party, to "stick" this taxpayer or that taxpayer that other taxpayers may get off lightly. It plays no favorites. It leaves that sort of thing to the politicians whose political principles are so elastic that they can be anything or do anything to get an office.

It matters nothing to the "nonpartisan" politicians that Tax Commissioner Arnold has proven a capable official and that the last assessment was the most equitable assessment that has ever been made of Milwaukee's taxable property. It is a game of politics that they are playing—precisely as it was a game of politics that led Mayor Bading to summarily remove Building Inspector Ringer and which led him to urge the council to abolish the office of secretary of the health department, and to discharge every subordinate official appointed under the preceding administration.

There is no likelihood whatever that the "nonpartisan" spoilsmonsters will be able to make their impeachment charges against the tax commissioner stand once they are brought before a judicial tribunal. We doubt if they have any expectations that the impeachment proceedings will be sustained by the courts. But they do hope to create in the public mind, doubt as to the integrity of Mr. Arnold, and, by attempting to bludgeon him as a public official, employ it to distract public attention from their own failure.

They are playing with a two-edged sword. When the last word shall have been spoken, they will stand discredited before the community. They are slinging their way through slander to an inglorious end.—The Milwaukee Leader.

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no perceptible difference between them. They stood together and acted like non-partisans. The Kaiser, who told "his" recruits of the army, that they must shoot father and mother whenever he commands them to do it, remains supreme war lord. His influence undermines the army slowly but surely. He dresses some of "his soldiers" in jackets, which are named by the people "monkey jackets," because circus monkeys only are dressed in a similar style. In red colored coats with white strings "his" soldiers are easy marks for the enemies, sharpshooters. But the lives of the suckers don't count. Billy likes gay colors, especially when the people pay for them. They must furnish the money and the men. The latter get any old treatment. They must bear it, whether it is good, bad or indifferent. In case of bad treatment, the soldiers were to have right of self defense according to a Socialist motion. Every non-Socialist voted against it, although soldiers, honorable sons of honorable people, have been compelled by superiors to "eat dirt." The punishment of such superiors is invariably slight. If soldiers however happen to be men of courage they get years of time to ponder in the penitentiary that cowardice and meekness is the foundation of all virtue.

In the French army the soldiers demonstrated with fiery courage against the contemplated three years term at the colors. The French government, consisting of hardened criminals, hands out sentences wholesale against the most courageous defenders of their country. The object is to rule, to graft, to exploit in Germany as in France. The war scare is manufactured to make money. The army bill must allay the scare and enrich the few who have their hand in. Both nations are being robbed, and German capitalists benefit by the French army bill, as surely as French capitalists reap the profits from the German army bill. This is why capitalists are always patriotic. The whole thing is a riot upon both nations and a disgrace.

GEORGE STREILITZ.

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Oscar Ameringer

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SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC HERALD
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Editor Associate

THE NATIONAL MFRS. ASSOCIATION EXPOSURE WAS TIMELY.



BERLIN.—This year's congress of the German Social Democratic party will be opened at Jena Sept. 14. The report of the committee will be presented by Herr Scheidemann, a member of the reichstag, who was the socialist nominee for the vice-presidency of the reichstag. With him will be associated the secretary of the party, Herr Braun.

Herr Scheidemann will give the report of the Parliamentary party; Herr Braun will open on the subject of the demands for a general holiday on Wed. day, and Herr Wurm and Dr. Schenk will speak on the incidence of taxation.

SALONIKA.—That Bulgarian irregulars burned to death 700 men belonging to Kurku, and setting fire to them in a mosque, and setting fire to it, is the statement of Father Michel, superior of the French Catholic mission at Kilkish. Father Michel asserts that the Bulgarians had previously assembled the wives and daughters of the victims and forced them to witness the horrible spectacle.

The priest also relates that even more terrible scenes were enacted at Kilkish, Planitsa and Raynovo, where many women were burned to death.

Father Michel asserts that among the irregulars responsible for these atrocities were several business and professional men and students from Sofia, capital of Bulgaria.

Of course, no enlightened person disputes the excellence of the work done by the universities in their departments of pure science and applied science. The development of these sciences from their beginning, meant the development of capitalism, yet the same time it served as nothing ever had before, human progression in general, and nobody understands as well as the Socialists the historic mission of the bourgeoisie in this respect.

But outside of these departments, the universities insist on an obligatory curriculum of studies for maintaining which there can be no other explanation than that they intend to protect the special interests of the ruling class against the theories by the working class. These studies such as philosophy, economics history, formal logic, psychology and literature are either perfectly obvious breastworks against the assault of the sciences, or are mere bluffs to divert attention from the main issues.

The student body is very generally of bourgeois antecedents. The great majority return to their former position, and when they see Socialism mentioned in their favorite newspaper are quite safe in their knowledge that it is the mischievous invention of iridescent dream of some imprudent head. A small minority, on account of their benevolent disposition, take kindly to Socialism, but as they are likewise under the spell of their college training they are unable to grasp the fundamental understanding and who, having seen the full truth, with brave hearts jeopardize and sacrifice their immediate material interests in taking the proletarian side of the struggle, who are they? They are welcomed as teachers and leaders.

The half-baked college Socialist is one of the signs of the immaturity of the labor movement in all its manifestations at the present time in this country—economic, political and cooperative. When the day shall have come that these several activities of the revolutionary forces have reached that stage of harmony, and solidly which we see in countries of a high state of technical development and general education, there will no longer be room for individual attitudes on the social question on the part of any college-bred Socialists or near-Socialists.

The time for nibbling and guessing will have passed and the thorough understanding of the class struggle will have imposed itself upon these educated young bourgeois men who have been so long under the spell of their college training and material interests. But others will surely follow the lead of the proletarian facts and being at the same time of a sympathetic temperament, will be changed from dilettante Socialists to real Socialists, determined never to rest till they have penetrated the very soul of Socialism.—New York Call.

DENVER, Colo.—That free love may come possibly within 15 generations is the prediction of Dr. Belle B. Gurney, Chief of the prominent delegates to the convention of the American Institute of Homeopathy, in session here. Discussing the subject she said:

"I am not at all free love. I think it would blur the race and set progress back many centuries if it should ever come. But I confess the tendency seems that way. Only by intelligent education can we avert this disaster."

"The majority of homes I believe, are chaste. I think that most people love their homes. But the speed of the age is hurrying us into another epoch. The demand for something new, for something exciting, for something more daring than indecency in clothes, is propelling us toward that day when as fast, the dread economic proposition of free love will have to be met."

"It should be crushed now. It should be nipped in the bud. The minds of the people should be directed toward the home and the race learn to live more within itself. The average American is a slave to fashion, society and pleasure nowadays. Everything is external."

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Jacob M. Loeb told of the fight to

Now Let's Have the Lid Off the Civic Federation.

LOUIS BLANC, EARLY FRENCH SOCIALIST, ON COMPETITION

"Competition is for the people a system of extermination. Is the poor man a murderer? What is he to do then?"

"All around him he finds the soil preoccupied. Can he cultivate the earth for himself? No; for the right of the first occupant has become a right of property. Can he gather the fruits which the hand of God ripens on the path of man? No; for, like the soil, the fruits have been appropriated. Can he hunt or fish? No; for that is a right which is dependent upon the government. Can he draw water from a spring enclosed in a field? No; for the proprietor of the field is, in virtue of his right to the field, proprietor of the fountain. Can he, dying of hunger and thirst, stretch out his hands for the charity of his fellow creatures? No; for there are laws against begging. Can he, exhausted by fatigue and without a refuge, lie down to sleep upon the pavement of the streets? No; for there are laws against vagabondage. Can he, flying from the cruel native land where everything is denied him, seek the means of living far from the place where life was given him? No; for it is not permitted to change your country except on certain conditions which the poor man cannot fulfill."

What, then, can the unhappy man do? He will say, "I have no work, I have no strength, I have no youth, I have no return give me a morsel of bread. This is what the working men



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The Builders' Column
By A. W. Vance

GIVE THEM LIGHT.
The price of meat has just taken another jump. The woman's pages of the daily and weekly papers are teeming with columns of silly drivel on the subject of how to reduce the cost of living.

In the meantime the cost of rent, clothing, food, go soaring higher. The masses of the people everywhere are in a rebellious frame of mind, but they do not know what to do. They do not know where to turn for relief.

You Socialists scattered all over the country know the remedy. You know there is only one possible way out of this blind alley. You know that tinkering the tariff and shifting the taxes now being attempted by the Democrats will be useless as a remedy.

WHAT WE CAN DO.
The only thing we can do is to ceaselessly keep up our agitation and our work of organization and education. There is no short cut to the Co-operative Commonwealth.

To this end we publish our papers. Every issue of the Social Democratic Herald carries the message of Socialism from many different angles.

At the club rates of four yearly subscriptions for \$1.25. The Herald is the cheapest and most effective propaganda literature you can push in your locality.

Push The Herald in your community. Where it goes Socialism and Socialist organization grows.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS
in Action

Contributions solicited. Write briefly.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST LEAGUES

BUFFALO.—A special meeting of the Y. P. S. L. was held on Tuesday, July 1, to elect delegates to the state convention and after the usual preliminaries, Comrades Alexander, Holmes and Wark were elected. Again we want to urge upon the Comrades the necessity of joining the Y. P. S. L. If you feel that you are too old to associate with the young folks, join anyway and help them by paying dues. He will say, "I have no work, I have no youth, I have no return give me a morsel of bread. This is what the working men

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"It should be crushed now. It should be nipped in the bud. The minds of the people should be directed toward the home and the race learn to live more within itself. The average American is a slave to fashion, society and pleasure nowadays. Everything is external."

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Our Young Folks
Every Week.

BILLY JONES GOES ON A VACATION
BY R. A. DAGUE

BILLY. "I have been here for a long time, my neighbors, the Bryants, are going to the lake tomorrow to take a vacation. They sent an invitation to you to be their guest and go with them. If you care to go, be ready tomorrow when they call for you in their auto. Their party will consist of Mr. and Mrs. Bryant, Charley and Susie, and the Chauffeur Jim."

"Thank you Dad," exclaimed the boy with enthusiasm. "I will be ready to go when they call for me."

Early the following morning Billy joined the Bryants, and before the middle of the day the party had safely arrived at their destination and had selected their cottages and tents and had made considerable progress in arranging their belongings for convenient use while in camp. The day came and went rapidly until nearly half of the vacation was soon gone before anything worthy of especial mention occurred. There were other pleasures enjoyed in the vicinity and at the hotel. Every day brought duties to be discharged and pleasures to be enjoyed. The young people went fishing, boating, swimming, and nearly every evening participated in the dancing at the pavilion not far away. One morning after breakfast, Mr. Bryant sat smoking and reading the newspaper and the ladies were engaged with their morning work, while Billy and Charley were nearby when a stranger, a young man, timidly presented himself and asked for something to eat, remarking that he had no money but was willing to work for his breakfast.

"Breakfast is over," said Mrs. Bryant, "but I have here some good bread and butter, and cheese, which I will give you" as she handed the man the eatables while Susie handed him an apple and some nuts.

Looking up from his paper Mr. Bryant said to his wife: "How many times have I told you not to feed tramps. They are a lazy lot who won't work, and all of them are drunkards and thieves. Here, you good for nothing beggar, get away from here and be quick about it and don't let me see you prowling around here again."

At this the man's face flushed, his eyes sparkled and straightening himself up, replied: "Mister, I am neither a drunkard, a thief nor a professional beggar. I am a coal-miner and had employment until the mines shut down and I had a spell of illness. I am, sir, greatly

chagrined to beg for something to eat, and would not do it if I were not almost starved, as I have not had a bite to eat for more than two days. I have made many applications for work but can get no employment. Hunger, sir, soon knocks all the courage out of a fellow as well as his physical strength."

"Clear out," angrily commanded Mr. Bryant. "Tramps are not only all lazy beggars, but big liars as well. You are probably one of the gang of miners who want on a strike. Every one of you ought to have been put in a bull pen and clubbed until you learned a little good sense and stopped disturbing the business interests of the country."

As the tramp turned to go he made a polite bow to the ladies and in gentlemanly tone said: "I thank you sincerely." As he passed near where Billy was standing the latter softly said to him: "Here neighbor, take this," and he slipped a fifty cent coin into the hand of the man.

"God bless you!" stammered the stranger.

"Don't mention it," said Billy in an undertone. "I am a Socialist, and Socialists believe in a universal brotherhood. Just a word of advice to you. When you get employment again stop striking and vote the Socialist ticket. The Socialist is the only political party that will do anything of value for working people. Brace up now! Try and realize that you are a man and as such have all the natural rights enjoyed by any other men. Join and help Socialists to abolish our present unjust industrial system and help to establish the co-operative commonwealth. Good morning sir, and good luck to you."

"What did that lazy tramp say to you Billy?" asked Mr. Bryant. "I noticed you and he had some conversation. I hope you did not express any sympathy for him. I don't encourage such vagrants. If I had a cross dog here now I would put him after that fellow and sell others like him."

"Oh, don't say that papa," exclaimed Susie. "The man did not look like a drunkard or thief. He had a good countenance and was quite gentlemanly."

"That's so, Susie," said her mother. "I think he is an honest workman out of a job, and it is our religious duty to be charitable to the poor, and to feed the hungry."

"Oh bosh," warmly interrupted Mr. Bryant. "I have been an elder in the church for thirty years and contributed much money to build several churches, am a teacher of a bible class in our sabbath school and a democrat all my life, and I tell you that neither my politics nor religion requires me to feed tramps. Most of them are strikers who have been blacklisted and properly so, for kicking